

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 22nd June 1889.

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Lord Reay and reduction of expenditure ...	ib.
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	" Kasipore Nibási " ...	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	30	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
2	" Ahammadi " ...	Tangail, Mymensingh	450	
3	" Ave Maria " ...	Calcutta	.....
4	" Divákar " ...	Ditto	.....
5	" Gaura Duta " ...	Maldah	.....
6	" Purva Bangabási " ...	Noakholly	.....
7	" Purva Darpan " ...	Chittagong	700	
8	" Uttara Banga Hitaishi " ...	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
9	" Arya Darpan " ...	Calcutta	102	
10	" Bangabási " ...	Ditto	20,000	15th June 1889.
11	" Burdwán Sanjibani " ...	Burdwan	302	11th ditto
12	" Chandra Vilásh " ...	Berhampore	250	
13	" Cháruvartá " ...	Sherepore, Mymensingh	500	10th ditto.
14	" Chattal Gazette " ...	Chittagong	800	17th ditto.
15	" Dacca Prakash " ...	Dacca	1,200	16th ditto.
16	" Education Gazette " ...	Hooghly	885	14th ditto.
17	" Faridpur Hitaishini " ...	Faridpur	.....	12th ditto.
18	" Garib " ...	Dacca	3,000	
19	" Grambási " ...	Uluberia	800	15th ditto.
20	" Gaurab " ...	Ditto	.....
21	" Guru Charana " ...	Calcutta	.....
22	" Hindu Ranjiká " ...	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	300	5th & 12th June 1889.
23	" Jagatbási " ...	Calcutta	750	
24	" Murshidábád Patriká " ...	Berhampore	508	
25	" Murshidábád Pratinidhi " ...	Ditto	350	
26	" Navavibhákar Sádharaní " ...	Calcutta	600	17th June 1889.
27	" Prajá Bandhu " ...	Chandernagore	995	14th ditto.
28	" Pratikár " ...	Berhampore	600	14th ditto.
29	" Rungpore Dik Prakash " ...	Kakinia, Rungpore	205	23rd May 1889.
30	" Sahachar " ...	Calcutta	500	12th June 1889.
31	" Samaya " ...	Ditto	3,808	14th ditto.
32	" Sanjivani " ...	Ditto	4,000	
33	" Sansodhini " ...	Chittagong	800	
34	" Santi " ...	Calcutta	3,722	19th ditto.
35	" Saráswat Patra " ...	Dacca	300	
36	" Som Prakash " ...	Calcutta	1,000	17th ditto.
37	" Srímantha Saudagár " ...	Ditto	.....
38	" Sulabha Samáchar o Kusadaha " ...	Ditto	800	14th ditto.
39	" Surabhi o Patáka " ...	Ditto	700	13th ditto.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<i>Daily.</i>				
40	"Dainik o Samáchar Chandriká" ...	Calcutta	1,500	13th & 16th to 19th June 1889.
41	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Ditto	800	14th to 21st June 1889.
42	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	14th to 20th ditto.
43	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
44	"Dacca Gazette" ...	Dacca	.....
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
45	"Darjeeling Mission ke Másik Samachár Patrika."	Darjeeling	20	
46	"Kshatriya Pratiká" ...	Patna	200	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Aryávarta" ...	Calcutta	1,500	
48	"Behar Bandhu" ...	Bankipore	.....
49	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	1,653	
50	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto	500	
51	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto	4,500	
52	"Hindi Samáchar" ...	Bhagulpore	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
53	"Jám-Jahán-numá." ...	Calcutta	250	
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
54	"Aftal Alum Arrah" ...	Arrah	300	
55	"Akhbar Tusdiq-i-Hind" ...	Calcutta	.....
56	"Anis" ...	Patna	.....
57	"Gauhur" ...	Calcutta	196	
58	"Sharaf-ul-Akbar" ...	Behar	150	
59	"Al Punch" ...	Bankipore	.....
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
60	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat" ...	Calcutta	340	
<i>Daily.</i>				
61	"Urdu Guide" ...	Calcutta	212	
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
62	"Asha" ...	Cuttack	.....
63	"Taraka and Subhavártá" ...	Ditto	.....
64	"Pradíp" ...	Ditto	.....
65	"Samyabadi" ...	Ditto	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
66	"Dipaka" ...	Cuttack	.....
67	"Utkal Dípiká" ...	Ditto	444	
68	"Balasore Samvad Váhika" ...	Balasore	205	
69	"Urya and Navasamvád" ...	Ditto	600	
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
70	"Silchar" ...	Silchar	500	3rd June 1889.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
71	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	450	10th ditto.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE Hindu Ranjiká, of the 12th June, says that Akshay Baboo, the Deputy Magistrate of Beaulah, admitted one Madhusudan Sarkar to bail; but the Court Sub-Inspector submitted a petition to the Deputy Magistrate stating that the acceptance of bail was illegal. The Deputy Magistrate rejected the petition, whereupon the Court Sub-Inspector submitted a petition to the Magistrate; and it was only upon the Magistrate's rejection of his petition that the Sub-Inspector released the accused. Such illegal detention in custody is very wrong. When the police can do such things under the very eyes of Magistrates, what is there that they cannot do in the mofussil?

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
June 12th, 1889.

2. The *Samaya*, of the 14th June, refers to the case of Mr. Wilcox, District Superintendent of Police, Backergunge, and his special clerk, as reported in the *Bengalee* newspaper, and says that it would like to learn from Mr. Wilcox the reasons for which he has dismissed the special clerk. Will Sir Stuart Bayley look to the matter? This case shows that a bad Anglo-Indian will not rest until he has effected the ruin of the man who has had the misfortune to incur his displeasure.

SAMAYA,
June 14th, 1889.

3. The same paper is astonished to learn that the Lieutenant-Governor's Resolution on the case of Mr. Stack, the late District Superintendent of Police, was published so late as the 5th of February last. What was the cause of the delay in publishing it? It appears from the Resolution that Mr. Stack confessed his guilt to the Lieutenant-Governor. Mr. Stack has been dismissed; but considering the gravity of his offence, he must be admitted to have been lightly dealt with.

SAMAYA.

4. A correspondent of the same paper complains of the prevalence of thefts at Jagatnagar, a village within the jurisdiction of thana Singur, in the district of Hooghly. The people of the village cannot sleep at night for fear of thieves. The authorities should look to the matter.

SAMAYA.

5. The *Bangabási*, of the 15th June, says that there are some *budmashes* at the village Paikpara in Munshigunge, in the Dacca district. They were recently punished, and remained quiet for some time; but they have again begun to make disturbances. They break open at night the doors of houses whose male members are away from home and attempt to violate the chastity of the females. This is very dreadful. The Magistrate and the Police Superintendent of Dacca, as well as the Deputy Magistrate of Munshigunge, should promptly check the oppression which is committed by these men.

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1889.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

6. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 5th June, says that Mr. Pargiter, the Judge of Rajshahye, communicates to the assessors his own views regarding the merits of a case before calling upon them to declare their views. This probably prevents the assessors from expressing their independent opinion.

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
June 5th, 1889.

SAHACHAR,
June 12th, 1889.

7. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th June, refers to the accumulation of arrears in the Calcutta Small Cause Court, and asks Government to appoint two Additional Judges to that Court for speedy disposal of cases.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 16th, 1889.

8. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 16th June, says that the other day Mr. Marsden, Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, refused to grant a summons against the Editor of the *Pioneer* newspaper, who was charged with libel at the instance of Captain Hearsey, on the ground that though the *Pioneer* is largely published in Calcutta, still its real place of publication is Allahabad. The objection taken by the Magistrate to the issue of the summons is certainly not an unreasonable one; and it is only to be regretted that the Magistrates are not in the habit of raising such objections when the persons to be summoned are the editors of native papers. What can be the cause of this dissimilarity of treatment of Anglo-Indian and Native Editors by English Magistrates?

SANTI,
June 19th, 1889.

9. The *Santi*, of the 19th June, says that Mr. Barrow, the Magistrate of Jessore, is a great lover of the Mussulmans. In his eyes there is no difference between Englishmen and Mussulmans. He heartily hates the Hindus. He gives the posts which fall vacant in the Jessore Collectorate to bearded Mussulmans with chapkans on, without any regard to merit or ability. It is said that he is giving preference to Mussulmans accustomed to hold the plough over able Hindu apprentices of two or three years' standing. The Mussulmans who are being appointed are, most of them, completely ignorant of Collectorate work.

(c)—*Jails.*

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1889.

10. The *Bangabasi*, of the 15th June, says that the jails of these days are hells on earth. The Jail Report for 1888 has been submitted, and the Lieutenant-Governor has issued his Resolution thereon from the snow-covered heights of Darjeeling. The report concludes with sweet words. The drift of the conclusion is that the Lieutenant-Governor is satisfied with the work of the jail officers. The writer does not know how many times the Lieutenant-Governor has personally visited the jails. But supposing he has not personally visited the jails, still he is a ruler and a ruler is an all-seeing man with an eyesight, which does not fail even in the deepest darkness. And the Lieutenant-Governor cannot be blamed for placing implicit faith in every statement of the jail officials, and thus expressing satisfaction with Jail Administration. But then one cannot help being reminded of the story of the lion and the man, in which the latter demonstrates the superiority of human prowess to the strength of a lion by pointing to a picture in which a lion is represented as having been prostrated by a man, but is answered by the lion with a smile that the picture was painted by a man. From the day on which the correspondent of the *Statesman*, an Englishman, who had himself experienced the horrors of jail, brought those horrors to light, uncomfortable misgivings have been awakened in the mind of the writer.

In 1887, 29,942 prisoners were admitted into the jails, but the number of admissions in 1888 was 30,995 or 1,053 more. The report thus explains this increase:—"The reason of this increase in the number of prisoners is an increase in the price of grains." Thus, whenever there is an increase in the price of grains, there is also an increase in the number of prisoners. And no wonder. The question now is, whether Government will close the doors of these hells by removing the distress of the people, or will sit idle and thus keep those doors open.

11. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 20th June, says that the jails of Bengal are reported to be hells. It is to be regretted that this stigma has not yet been effaced from them, and that in spite of improved sanitary arrangements there has not been such a reduction of the death-rate in the jails as could be wished. The mortality last year was greater than that in the year before. Is it not desirable to take special measures for reducing jail mortality?

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
June 20th, 1889.

The Jails of Bengal.

(d)—Education.

12. The *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 5th June, does not quite agree with those who say that the large percentage of failures in the last Entrance Examination was owing to the fact of many unfit candidates having been sent up for that examination by heads of schools who have made school-keeping a trade, and who state in support of their view that the percentage of failures was heaviest in Calcutta where the number of schools set up in the way of business is largest. This may have been one cause, but it cannot have been the only cause. For the results of the mofussil schools this year were also worse than in former years. From the Rajshahye Collegiate School, for instance, 90 or 95 per cent. of the candidates sent up passed the Entrance Examination in previous years, but the percentage of successful candidates from that school this year was less than 60.

HINDU RANJIKĀ,
June 5th, 1889.

The last Entrance Examination.

There can be no doubt, therefore, that the large percentage of failures in the last Entrance Examination was owing to the Examiners. The fact can no longer be concealed that the Examiners do not examine the answer papers with proper care, and that they forget considerations of justice and *dharma* in examining those papers. Last year seven Examiners were found guilty of carelessness in discharging their duty. This year too one or two Examiners have been accused of the same offence. The writer believes that, if the answer papers are re-examined, many passed candidates will be plucked, and many plucked candidates will pass.

The appointment of Examiners now depends on votes. Carelessness in examining papers on the part of an Examiner does not therefore prevent his re-appointment as an Examiner. For this and other reasons the Examiners have become careless, and it is to this carelessness of the Examiners that the massacre of the innocents is due.

13. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th June, has the following about Baboo Dina Nath Sen, Inspector of Schools, Eastern Circle, and the Committee appointed by him to select text-books for schools within his circle :—

SAHACHAR,
June 12th, 1889.

Baboo Dina Nath Sen and his Text-book Committee.

Baboo Dina Nath Sen acted very properly in appointing a committee of learned men to select text-books ; but he did not by so doing divest himself of his own independence in the matter. He appointed the Committee simply for its advice in the matter—advice which he did not pledge himself to follow. That the Committee is quarrelling with Dina Baboo is because it is under a misconception about its character and functions.

14. The *Surabhi-o-Patākā*, of the 13th June, says that the *Sanjivani* newspaper has taken exception to the appointment of Messrs. Rowe and Hørnle as Examiners of the Calcutta University on the ground that at the last examination they lost some answer papers through carelessness. But there is another reason why Mr. Rowe ought not to be made an Examiner, and that is that he is the author of one of the books in which the boys are examined at the Entrance Examination. It is for this reason that Baboo Prasanna Kumar Lahari and Pandit Nabin Chandra Vidyaratna and others are not made Examiners.

SURABHI-O-PATAKA,
June 13th, 1889.

Messrs. Rowe and Hørnle as University Examiners.

PRATIKAR,
June 14th, 1889

15. The *Pratikar*, of the 14th June, says that the *Education Gazette* must certainly be sorry for not being able to publish the list of successful candidates in the Minor Scholarship Examination of this year in the Presidency Circle, and the scholarship list relating to that examination. It is the chief function of the *Education Gazette* to furnish educational information. Unable to furnish the scholarship list of the Minor Scholarship Examination held in the Presidency Circle this year, it has published the scholarship list of that examination for the year 1888. But it is of no use publishing a list one year old.

SANTI,
June 19th, 1889.

16. The *Santi*, of the 19th June, points out the following irregularities in connection with the selection of text-books by the Calcutta University:—A book of Sanskrit selections, to be compiled by Pandit Mahesh Chandra Nyayaratna and two other persons, has been fixed as Sanskrit text-book for the Entrance Examination in 1891. The list in which this was announced was published on the 21st September 1888, and though it is now nearly ten months since that date, this book, which will not contain more than 150 pages, has not yet been prepared. The rules of the University require that a text-book for the Entrance Examination should be read for two years, but of the two years nearly six months have already passed away. If the compilation of a Sanskrit text-book had not been the monopoly of a single individual, the work would have been undertaken by many competent pandits. The Syndicate should notify every year what text-books will be altered, and inform the public that those who will write good books should send them for its approval. It should select text-books from among such books.

In the calendar for 1889, the fifth edition of Ganot's Natural Philosophy was announced as the text-book in Physics. But in 1887 the sixth edition of that book was published, and since then the fifth edition is not procurable.

Why are not the text-books in Mathematics definitely named in the University Calendar? Wilson's Geometry was the text-book in Geometry for the First Arts Examination for five or six years; but it is not mentioned this year. It is said that Casey's Geometry and Jorlor's conic sections have been fixed as text-books for 1891 for that examination. Why have not these books then been mentioned in the University Calendar for 1891? All this shows that Dr. P. K. Ray is thoroughly unfit for the post of Registrar. Mr. Tawney is now Registrar, and it is hoped that such irregularities will disappear under his management.

When Dr. P. K. Ray's Logic was first selected as a text-book, its price was Rs. 3; but Dr. Ray reduced its price to Rs. 2, and gave it to Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Company to print. Shortly afterwards he began to get the book printed in England and fixed its price at 4s. 6d. Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Company is now selling the book at 2 rupees and 13 annas, and the native book-sellers too cannot sell it under 2 rupees and 8 annas on account of exchange. Thus the original contract has been disregarded; but neither the Syndicate nor the Senate took any notice of this. It is a work of the Registrar himself, and no one dares say anything against it. Again, Dr. Ray's Logic is not a good book. It is no book in fact, but only a collection of notes. But still it is a text-book not only in the Calcutta University, but also in the Madras and Bombay Universities. Such is recommendation!

The class book of Geography has been fixed as a text-book for the Entrance Examination in 1891. Its price was fixed at 3s., but as soon as it was selected as a text-book, Messrs. Macmillan and Company raised its price to 3s. 6d.

In the University Calendars for 1888 and 1889 Blanford's Physical Geography was mentioned as the text-book in that subject in the Entrance Examination in 1890. But in 1889 it was suddenly announced in the Gazette that Geikie's Physical Geography had been selected as the text-book in Physical Geography in 1890. Knowing that Blanford's book was the text-book for 1890, many booksellers had indented for a large number of copies of that book, and many students had also purchased the book. These book-sellers are now suffering great loss. The native book-sellers sell books at prices 25 per cent. below the prices charged by Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Company. This is a great boon to the general public and the students; but if the University repeatedly causes loss to them by its capriciousness, how will they carry on their trade? Their ruin will greatly benefit Messrs. Thacker, Spink and Company, but will prove a source of hardship to the poor parents of the students.

Help's *Essays and Organization in Daily Life* (published by Smith, Elder and Company) was fixed as a text-book for the First Arts Examination in 1890. That Company holds the copyright of the latter portion of the book. But the copyright in respect of the essays having expired, Messrs. Macmillan and Company are getting an annotated edition of the essays prepared by Messrs. Rowe and Webb, and now the essays alone, to the exclusion of the *Organization in Daily Life*, has been announced by the University as the text-book for 1890. Thus Messrs. Smith, Elder and Company, holders of the copyright in respect of the book, have been made losers. Such is recommendation.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

17. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 5th June, says that the utmost the Beaulah Municipality can expect to get in the way of additional income by increasing the municipal rates is Rs. 1,000. But it can make an annual saving of twice that amount by retrenching expenditure in the following way:—

HINDU RANJIKA
June 5th, 1889.

1. The post which has been temporarily abolished in the Municipal Head Office may be permanently abolished, giving a saving of at least Rs. 300 per annum.
2. The expenditure in the Collection Department is much larger compared with that of other municipalities in Bengal. This expenditure amounts to Rs. 1,800 in a year—an expenditure which, with better arrangements, can be reduced to Rs. 1,000 a year. The municipality ought to be divided into four parts for the purposes of collection, with four tax-gatherers for the four parts, receiving a commission of 5 per cent. each on the collections instead of the 9 per cent. which is now paid. There are, it is believed, competent men who would agree to serve as tax-gatherers for the reduced commission. If more than one tax-gatherer is appointed, it will be possible to make a reduction of Rs. 300 by reducing the salary of the assessment clerk, and by effecting some other retrenchments.
3. There is now an expenditure of Rs. 3,000 a year for the municipal hospital. Of this sum only Rs. 400 is spent on medicines. An expenditure of Rs. 3,500 a year for the purpose of dispensing medicines worth only Rs. 400 a year seems to be undue expenditure. The Assistant Surgeon in charge of the hospital should be allowed a

salary of Rs. 100 a month instead of Rs. 150 a month as at present, thus effecting a saving of Rs. 600 a year.

4. The amount actually expended in the construction of roads is less than that expended for the road overseers' department. This is not right. The expenditure of that department will be found capable of reduction.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1889.

18. The *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th June, says that, as the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Burdwan Municipality frequently come to Calcutta on legal business, the work of the

The District Board of Burdwan and the Burdwan Municipality.

Municipality is practically carried on by its subordinate officers. The Chairman often passes his orders from Calcutta, while the Vice-Chairman rarely goes out inspecting the town. Things are managed better by the District Board of Burdwan, which is under the Chairmanship of the Magistrate. The consciousness that they have a European head over them makes the officers of the Board do their duty properly. And it may be remarked here, by the way, that when the Chairman of a Municipality or a District Board is a native of India, the officers under him often neglect their duties.

Both the District Board and the Municipality are guilty of favouritism and of taking incompetent men into their service on larger salaries than they used to get as Government servants.

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1889.

19. The *Bangabasi*, of the 15th June, says that so foul a stench issues occasionally, and especially in this hot season, out of the dead-house in the Medical

The dead-house stench.

College Hospital, that it is difficult for people living in the vicinity to bear it. It is indispensably necessary that the municipality should attend to the matter.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
June 11th, 1889.

20. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 11th June, says that the required number of culverts over the road proceeding in a north-easterly direction from Durgapore in the Raniganj sub-

Culverts on the Durgapore road in the Raniganj sub-division.

division have not yet been constructed. The absence of culverts is much felt in the rainy season.

GRAMVASI,
June 15th, 1889.

21. The *Gramvasi*, of the 15th June, says that this year not even a handful of earth has been thrown on the roads in the Howrah district. The people

Roads in the Howrah district.

applied to the Board for the construction of roads in their respective villages. But as the Magistrate has ordered that no money would be sanctioned for roads until plans of the roads were submitted, grants for the roads have not yet been sanctioned. The Local Boards are now preparing plans. As many of the clerks of the Uluberia Local Board often absent themselves from office, the preparation of plans for that sub-division is being indefinitely delayed. It is rumoured that the Magistrate has ordered that all the proposed village roads should run in a straight line. But as the carrying out of this order will mean the destruction of houses, trees, gardens, &c., the Magistrate should reconsider it.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 17th, 1889.

22. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th June, referring to the warning given in the *Pioneer* newspaper that no one should purchase the shares of the Bengal Provincial Railway Company until the Gov-

The *Pioneer* on the Bengal Provincial Railway Company.

ernor-General and the Secretary of State for India have sanctioned Baboo Annada Prasad Raya's proposal for the construction of the new railway line, asks—Does this mean that the Government of India is not

going to sanction Annada Baboo's proposal? The *Pioneer's* statement has raised doubts in the mind of the writer. If it be the intention of Government not to give the natives of this country a chance of improving their condition, it should say so publicly. To say nothing for or against a proposal when it is broached, and to oppose it at the very moment when it is about to be carried into effect, will not be sound English statesmanship.

23. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 17th June, makes the following complaint against the Eastern Bengal State Railway:—

The Eastern Bengal Railway.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
June 17th, 1889.

1. Fewer trains now run on the line than before.
2. The number of intermediate carriages attached to mail trains is so small as to cause serious inconvenience to middle class people.
3. Sufficient accommodation is not provided for 3rd class passengers in the morning down train which leaves Belghoria at 9-30 A.M.

(h)—General.

24. The *Rungpore Dikprakash*, of the 23rd May, says that quarter-pice post-cards, such as the Nizam intends introducing into his dominion, should also be introduced into British India. The Government of India is requested to follow the good example of the Nizam in this respect.

Quarter-pice post-cards.

RUNGPORE DIK PRA-
KASH,
May 23rd, 1889.

25. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 5th June, referring to the appointment of Mr. Phillips to a second class Magistrateship, says that it well knew, when the clamour against Mr. Phillips was raised, that he would be promoted. What has happened is precisely what might have been anticipated, and there is, therefore, no reason to be sorry at it.

Mr. Phillips' promotion.

HINDU RANJIKA,
June 5th, 1889.

26. The *Samaya*, of the 14th June, refers to the charge of forgery brought against the postmaster of Guljarganj, in the district of Jounpur, and says that, as dishonesty on the part of the employés of the Postal Department has now become very common, it behoves Government to employ educated men largely in that department, and to discourage the present system of entrusting responsible duties to half educated men on small salaries. As a precaution against dishonesty in monetary matters on the part of its officers, Government should insist upon taking securities from any one of its officers in the Postal Department whose duties are connected with the receipt and disbursement of money.

Postal frauds.

SAMAYA,
June 14th, 1889.

27. The same paper says that, having regard to the way in which the Finance Committee and the Public Service Commission have done their work, and the narrow limits within which their enquiries were confined, it cannot accept the ministerial assurance that those two Commissions have made the appointment of a Royal Commission to enquire into the administration of India superfluous. Let a Royal Commission be appointed, and let men like Sir T. Madhava Rao and Mr. W. C. Bonnerjee be appointed as members of such Commission.

A Royal Commission for India.

SAMAYA.

28. The *Sulabh Samachar-o-Kushdaha*, of the 14th June, says that such circulars as the one which has been issued by Mr. Veasey, directing police officers to keep themselves informed about the native associations and their leaders, and the one which is said to have been recently issued directing the police

Government's distrust of the people.

SULABH SAMACHAR O
KUSHDAHA,
June 14th, 1889.

to keep an eye on Sannyasis and other mendicants, have clearly their origin in a distrust of the people. The writer dares to say that no Indian is so ungrateful as to harbour evil designs against the English. Why then do the officials distrust the Indians? Do they not know that constant distrust makes even the obedient son hostile to his father? Let them be re-assured, India is not Ireland.

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1889.

29. The *Bangabási*, of the 15th June, says that Lord Reay has had to suffer disgrace. Nine of those mamlatdars who admitted having given bribes to Mr.

Crawford under a promise of pardon from the Governor have been deprived of their Magisterial powers under the directions of the Secretary of State. But it is difficult to understand the decision of the Secretary of State. Why should nine only of the large number of men who admitted having given bribes be punished? Again, these nine men have only been divested of their judicial powers in criminal cases, their judicial powers in civil cases remaining intact. Has this arrangement been made because the public alone, and not the Government, can be expected to suffer from the corruption of judicial officers in civil cases?

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
June 17th, 1889.

30. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 17th June, says that it has been in a manner settled that Mr. Westland will be the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Mr. Westland has long been engaged in

account work, and the work of a Provincial Governor will therefore be new to him. But he has no lack of ability, and the writer hopes that he will soon obtain credit by his administration of Assam. The tea-planters are one of the causes of disquiet in Assam, and the most important work which has to be done there now is the suppression of the oppression practised upon coolies. Blinded by their sympathy with their countrymen, the Chief Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners do not look to the welfare of the poor ryots and helpless coolies, and do not make proper efforts to put an end to the oppression which is practised upon them. Mr. Fitzpatrick was slowly and with great judgment removing all sorts of oppression, and he looked with an equal eye on the rich and on the poor, on countrymen and on aliens. And the writer requests Mr. Westland to follow in Mr. Fitzpatrick's footsteps. It is the duty of a ruler to maintain the dignity of his office by impartial conduct, and it is hoped that Mr. Westland will not shrink from doing that duty.

The present staff of Secretaries in Assam does not appear to be an able one. Since the transfer of the able and learned General Secretary, Mr. Lyall, Mr. Fitzpatrick has had to do almost all work with his own hand. The Public Works Secretary also is not able to discharge the duties of his post. Under these circumstances, Mr. Westland will have to work hard, and to supervise all work, important or unimportant. Mr. Westland, it is hoped, will not shrink from taking all this trouble.

DACCA GAZETTE,
June 17th, 1889.

31. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 17th June, referring to the declaration of the Under-Secretary of State in Parliament, that Mr. Smith's proposal relating to the outstill system has been sent to the Viceroy, says that the Indians will for ever remain grateful to Lord Lansdowne if the outstill system is abolished during his administration.

DACCA GAZETTE

32. The same paper, referring to the postponement of the amendment of the Coolie Emigration Act on account of the transfer of Mr. Fitzpatrick to Hyderabad, says that, if Mr. Fitzpatrick's transfer was expected to stand in the way of so important a work, he should not have been sent to Hyderabad. Coolies are recruited by such unjust and illegal means, that it

Amendment of the Coolie Emigration
Act.

is indispensably necessary to remedy the evil without delay. How long will the Government of India defer fulfilling hopes which it has itself excited in the public mind?

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

33. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 12th June, says that the proposed reduction of the working hours of the labourers in the Indian mills will no doubt afford them

The Factory law.

much relief, but their wages will fall as a consequence of this, and they will not have enough food to eat. Will they consider starvation a lesser evil in comparison with the great blessing of reduction of work, and so bless Lancashire with uplifted hands? The best thing would have been to make a law forbidding Indians to establish mills at all.

34. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th June, says that, in view of the contagious nature of leprosy and of the large number of people suffering from that disease in this

The proposed Leper Bill.

country, Government will be certainly justified in adopting measures to arrest its progress. As a first move in this direction, Government should detain all helpless and begging lepers in asylums created for this purpose, taking particular care at the same time to keep the sexes separate in such asylums. In process of time, well-to-do lepers will also have to be similarly detained. This will no doubt cause some hardship at first, but gradually the people will get accustomed to it.

35. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the 17th June, strongly objects to the proposal about the forcible detention of lepers in asylums to be established

The Leper Bill.

for them. In the first place, as it has not yet been proved that leprosy is a contagious disease, the forcible detention of lepers in asylums is unnecessary. In the second place, the practical working of the proposal will lead to much oppression. And in the third place, attention to their religious observances by Hindu lepers will be impossible in asylums. The lepers are already suffering from the effects of the sins committed by them in their former birth, and why make them commit more sins by forcibly detaining them in Mlechchha asylums? Probably residence in the kingdom of Mlechchhas will in process of time make the whole country Mlechchha.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

36. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th June, says that the rule under which all communications addressed to the Viceroy by the Native Princes of India are required to

Cashmere and other Native States.

pass through the Political Residents should be abolished, and the Native Princes should be authorised to address the Viceroy direct. The rule in question often places the Native Prince at a disadvantage. If any letter of a Native Prince is not after the mind of a Resident, he does not allow it to go to the Viceroy, and either returns it to the Prince, or disposes of it in any other way he likes.

There was a time when it was necessary to keep a sharp eye upon the Native Chiefs and to arm Residents with large powers. But it is not necessary to do so now. Facilities of communication have broken the isolation of the Native States, and British soldiers have been stationed in nearly all of them. There is, therefore, no longer any necessity for Residents actively interfering in the affairs of the Native Chiefs and prying into their private correspondence.

If it be said that the abolition of the rule will take away from the prestige of the Resident, the answer is that that prestige has already been greatly damaged by the conduct of the Residents and the officials under them.

HINDU RANJIKA,
June 12th, 1889.

SAHACHAR,
June 12th, 1889.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
June 17th, 1889.

SAHACHAR,
June 12th, 1889.

Reference is then made to present Cashmere affairs, and it is remarked that the recent doings of the Resident in that State have given rise to real discontent amongst its people. The people of Cashmere are freely asking the question, what has induced Colonel Nisbet, who was in receipt of a salary of Rs. 3,000 per month, to accept the post of Resident in Cashmere at the reduced salary of Rs. 2,500 per month? Is the Colonel's statement true that the Maharajah was willing to abdicate? The Maharajah's letter to the Viceroy, asking His Excellency to shoot him through the heart, does not certainly support the Colonel's story. Under these circumstances, it is the duty of the Viceroy to institute an enquiry into this and other matters connected with the Cashmere administration, and to do justice to the unfortunate Pratap Singh. It is His Excellency's decision alone that will carry conviction to the hearts of the people, who have very little confidence in the Foreign Office and the Political Residents.

SAHAJAH.

37. The same paper says that the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* has again protested against the recent doings of Government in Cashmere. All India is sorry for the unfortunate Pratap Singh. There is no doubt that he is being unfairly dealt with. And the oppression which is being committed on him can be put down only by the Viceroy.

HINDU RANJIKA,
June 12th, 1889.

38. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 12th June, says that, if what a correspondent writing from Cashmere to another paper says is true (and the correspondent is prepared to substantiate his statements), Lord Lansdowne has committed a great error. The ruining of a Chief Feudatory Prince under the influence of a Resident's magic will diminish rather than increase the attachment of the other Native Princes to the English Government. The writer is astonished to hear that the telegram which the Maharajah of Cashmere sent to the Viceroy, denying the charges that were being brought against him, did not reach the Viceroy and was suppressed by the Resident. Thus the case of the Viceroy is worse than that of the female zemindars of this country, for although the latter live in the seclusion of the *zenana*, no officer of theirs ventures to suppress letters which are addressed to them. The manner in which the Residents behave towards the Native Princes is humiliating to the latter. Danger may arise if the Viceroy does not attend to the matter.

SAMAYA,
June 14th, 1889.

39. The *Samaya*, of the 14th June, says that, if the charges which have been preferred against Major Barr, Resident at Gwalior, be true, then the Major ought to be removed from the post of Resident. Lord Lansdowne should enquire into the acts of Major Barr. As the people of Gwalior are dissatisfied with the Major, he should be transferred from that place.

SAMAYA.

40. The same paper has the following on Cashmere affairs:—

The public in this country no doubt remember vividly how many pretexts the English Government made and how often it committed *zulm* on the Maharajah of Cashmere for the purpose of annexing (*lit.* swallowing) that country. But this time the Resident, Colonel Nisbet, has taken an unerring aim, and the Maharajah is now going restlessly about like a deer pierced with an arrow. How can an English Resident form an idea of the degree of sorrow and mental anguish which the Maharajah of Cashmere is feeling at the present moment? He alone can form an idea of this who has himself felt it. The Maharajah has been unjustly deposed and proved guilty through the machinations of the Resident. The late Resident, Mr. Plowden, introduced complication into Cashmere affairs, and the present Resident has hatched the plan of deposing the Maharajah. Led away by the clamour of the *Pioneer* and other Anglo-Indian newspapers on the

one hand, and by the *seed* and the machinations of the Resident, on the other, Lord Lansdowne has failed to unravel the Cashmere mystery, and has sanctioned whatever Colonel Nisbet wished to do. His Excellency never enquired whether the Maharajah was really guilty or not, or whether he was really willing to abdicate or not, and has given his decision on an *ex parte* statement and without hearing the other side. How can it be said then that the decision has been a just one?

The letters about which so much noise has been made were not written by the Maharajah, and Lord Lansdowne believed them to be forgeries. Why then has the Maharajah been deposed for five years? Colonel Nisbet told the Viceroy that the Maharajah was himself willing to divest himself of royal powers for five years, and that there could be no harm in giving effect to the Maharajah's wish, and the Viceroy did what he was asked to do. He never suspected the trick which the Colonel was playing all the while, and instead of asking, as he should have done, the Maharajah's opinion in the matter, deposed him on the strength of the Colonel's statement. There can be no doubt that Lord Lansdowne has been guilty of an error of judgment; and not only the writer, but also the people of Cashmere, are of that opinion.

When Colonel Nisbet came to Calcutta to show the "letters" to the Viceroy, the Maharajah addressed a telegram to the latter protesting against those letters. It is not known whether that telegram was received by the Viceroy. Possibly the telegram was received by the Colonel, and was not shown by him to the Viceroy. Will Lord Lansdowne enquire into the matter?

The Maharajah's autograph letter is then alluded to, and the question is asked, will not this letter move the heart of Lord Lansdowne?

The deposition of the Maharajah has dissatisfied the people of Cashmere, who are blaming Prince Amar Singh, the Maharajah's brother, and Colonel Nisbet for it. Amar Singh is anxious to ascend the throne of Cashmere; and the Colonel has won him over to his side, and is trying to ruin the Maharajah with his help. Amar Singh has now become an enemy of the Maharajah, and is saying many things to the Government of India against his brother. When Lord Lansdowne will come to see through the motive of Amar Singh, he will find what an improper thing he has done by deposing Pratap Singh.

If Government does not cherish any evil design against Cashmere, and if it wants to do justice to the Maharajah, it will try the Maharajah in a public Durbar. If Government does not believe in the genuineness of the "letters," why has it deposed the Maharajah for five years?

41. The *Prajā Bandhu*, of the 14th June, says that Cashmere affairs are daily assuming an alarming aspect. There

PRAJA BANDHU,
June 14th, 1889.

Cashmere. is discontent everywhere in the State, and the people are at heart dissatisfied with recent English doings there. And who shall say that the fire which is now smouldering in the minds of the people of Cashmere will not blaze out one day?

The Maharajah of Cashmere is also beside himself in shame and disgust. No one will be able to help shedding tears if he reads the letter which the Maharajah has recently addressed to the Viceroy. The statement made in the letter that if he is deprived of liberty, he would not like to live, and that the Viceroy would be pleased to put an end to his sorrows by shooting him through his heart with his (Viceroy's) own hand, is an expression of the deep sorrow which dwells in the Maharajah's heart.

For what offence has the Maharaja been deposed? Is he really guilty of any offence? So far as the writer understands the matter, it is his belief that the Maharajah has been made the victim of a deep-laid conspiracy.

Englishmen say that the Maharajah is incapable of administering his State, and that Cashmere has been misgoverned by him.

As it is Englishmen who have made this statement, one *must* accept it as true! But the courts in British India make a distinction between the black and the white. Englishmen are themselves snatching away the legitimate rights of the Indians, and are breaking their promises. Magisterial and police oppression and famine are daily occurrences in their own Empire; but no one dares to say that there is injustice and misrule in their Empire. If there be such things in Cashmere, the Maharajah should not be held responsible for them; for he was Maharajah only in name, and was very much afraid of the Resident. He was not master of himself in anything. He could not, for instance, appoint men of his own choice to carry on the work of the State. And the result is that the men who were at one time in receipt of a salary of Rs. 10 per month, have, by flattering the English, secured influential positions in the State. The first care of these men is to please the English, and good government is impossible in a State where such men possess power and influence. It is hardly reasonable to hold the Maharajah responsible for the good government of his State.

But is it a fact that Cashmere has been misgoverned by the Maharajah? A Native of Cashmere thus writes to the *Pioneer* on the subject:—

“The general maladministration for a long time past is a lame sham plea. Whatever the shortcomings, the general condition of the Cashmere people under the present rule most favourably contrasts with (that of) the people under the Government administration of (the) Punjab and its dependencies. A Cashmere farmer is better off than a Punjab farmer. This view is not only held by me, but by (the) experienced Punjab tehsildar who (has) entered Cashmere service.”

The next point for consideration is, was the Maharajah really anxious to abdicate? It is well known that some time ago the Maharajah felt greatly annoyed at the oppression by the Resident, and expressed a desire to form a Council of State, and to appoint an English member to that Council. He thought that, with the appointment of an English member, the high-handedness of the Resident would decrease, but the present Resident, Colonel Nisbet, has artfully managed to reject that part of the Maharajah's proposals. The Councillors whom he has appointed will flatter the English and take Cashmere money.

Whatever arguments Englishmen may make use of for annexing Cashmere, the people of India know well that such arguments are mere pretexts, and no arguments. The English had it long in their mind to annex Cashmere, and their desire is now fulfilled. But will heaven tolerate so much oppression and misbehaviour? May not the consequences of this oppression be terrible? The writer is saying this in a friendly spirit. And if the English reject these friendly counsels, they will have to take the consequences one day, with the addition of all possible suffering (lit. with interest).

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1889.

Cashmere.

42. The *Bangabási*, of the 15th June, publishes the following from its Cashmere correspondent:—

The condition of Cashmere is now deplorable. It is growing worse and worse since the departure of Babu Nilambar Mukerjee. Both townspeople and villagers praise Nilambar Babu, and say that they will be happy if he comes back. The common people say that the Maharajah has been very unhappy since he made over the management of his State to the Council of Regency. The chief cause of his sorrow is his brother Amar Singh's enmity to him. It is said that Amar Singh tries to punish those who go to see the Maharajah. Devoted servants of the Maharajah, such as Dr. Suraj Bal, are being dismissed. Amar Singh is now very powerful. It is said that the Maharajah is unable to bear his misery, and will soon leave for Jummoo. It is also said that he will see Lord Lansdowne at Simla, and there speak out

his mind to him. The people say that it will be well if the Maharajah can persuade the Viceroy to allow him to bring back Nilambar Babu.

43. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 16th June, refers to the letter addressed to the Viceroy by the Maharajah of Cashmere and observes as follows:—

Cashmere.

This letter, coming from a Chief, the annual revenue of whose State is 2½ crores of rupees, and who has an army of not less than 30,000 troops, is not merely heart-rending, but is also calculated to give rise to serious apprehensions. Men can sacrifice all their wealth, and even their lives, for the sake of protecting their honour. And the Maharajah has come to the Viceroy for the purpose of protecting that honour. And if that honour is not protected, who can say what the Maharajah will do? The Cashmere incident may lead to a catastrophe in the country. It is true that, with his utmost effort, the Maharajah will be unable to do any harm to the British Government; but this much is certain that if war breaks out between the Maharajah and the British Government some 50 to 60 thousand lives may be lost, and some 20 to 25 crores of rupees may be wasted. The deposition of the Maharajah, without sufficient cause, is calculated to create alarm in the minds of all the native princes of India. It, therefore, behoves Government not to make the Maharajah Pratap Singh a mere puppet in the hands of the Resident.

44. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th June, refers to the letter which is reported to have been recently addressed to the Viceroy by the Maharajah of Cashmere, and observes as follows:—

Cashmere.

No man who reads this letter can remain unmoved. Sentiments like those contained in the letter can only be expressed by a man who feels insulted and humiliated beyond measure. It is really astonishing to see that other interpretations are being put upon this letter by some of the Anglo-Indian newspapers. According to some of these papers this letter means that the Maharajah has gone mad, and according to others, it means that there are men in the background who are goading him to act in the way he is doing. What a pity it is that instead of trying to remove the miseries of a really unfortunate man, these writers in the Anglo-Indian press should try to add to his sufferings. One does not know of what material the hearts of these men are made. It behoves the Viceroy to give particular attention to the matter. The Maharajah has appealed to him in the hope of obtaining justice at his hands, and it is hoped that the Viceroy will not neglect to respond to this appeal.

45. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 17th June, says that there will soon be a change in the administrative machinery of Assam and Hyderabad. The

Mr. Fitzpatrick and Hyderabad.

appointment of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the present Chief Commissioner of Assam, as the Resident of Hyderabad in place of Mr. Howell, is expected to be very beneficial to Hyderabad; but it will, on the other hand, be very injurious to Assam. Justice, nobleness, impartiality, ability and other virtues, all very valuable in a ruler, were conspicuous in Mr. Fitzpatrick, and under his administration Assam was enjoying peace and happiness; but that happiness threatens to be very short-lived.

Greatly injurious as Mr. Fitzpatrick's transfer from Assam will be to that province, it is to be rejoiced at as a thing which will end the evil days of Hyderabad and promote her welfare. The arrival of a wise and impartial statesman like Mr. Fitzpatrick in Hyderabad augurs well for that State. Under Mr. Howell the condition of Hyderabad was becoming worse and worse, and its condition would have become the worst possible if he had been confirmed in the Residency.

In Hyderabad there was the Resident's oppression on the one hand, and the Prime Minister's blundering on the other. Sir Asman Jah, the

DACCA PRAKASH
June 16th, 1889.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 17th, 1889.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
June 17th, 1889.

present Prime Minister of the Nizam, has neither learning, nor intellect, nor political capacity; nor has Mr. Howell the ability to make Sir Asman Jah a fit man for his post. The Nizam is very uneasy on this account, but it is hoped that after Mr. Fitzpatrick's arrival affairs will be smoothly managed, and there will be peace and happiness in Hyderabad. The Nizam is intelligent, wise, well educated and well behaved. He has, in short, all the qualifications of a ruler of men. He had no good adviser, and now that want will be supplied by Mr. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Fitzpatrick is not a man to be led by the nose by others, and it is sure he will always give good advice to the Nizam, and do his best to keep the young Chief's attachment to the English Government unimpaired.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
June 21st, 1889.

46. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 21st June, says that the eyes of all India are now fixed on Cashmere. Lord Lansdowne has put his hand to a very serious work. He will have to float on a sea of infamy on account of these Cashmere affairs. Lord Dufferin became unpopular with the Indians by conquering Burma immediately after his arrival in India, and the writer sees that Lord Lansdowne too will have to become unpopular in the same way on account of his dealings in regard to Cashmere.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

HINDU RANJIKĀ,
June 5th, 1889.

Distress at Gunaigachha in Chatmohar.

47. A correspondent of the *Hindu Ranjikā*, of the 5th June, writing from Gunaigachha in Chatmohar, says that there has been no rain at that place, and that coarse *usna* rice is selling at 18 seers per rupee, and *atap* rice at 16 seers per rupee. If this is not famine, what is?

SAHACHAR.
June 12th, 1889.

Distress in Angul in Orissa.

48. A correspondent of the *Sahachar*, of the 12th June, says that the distress in Angul in Orissa has reached its utmost limit, so much so, that even human flesh is being eaten as food. This last fact is not, however, known generally, and nothing has been done to improve the situation. The writer assures his readers that they can rely upon the honesty of the correspondent.

SAHACHAR.

The best way of relieving distress in this country.

49. The same paper says that it has been found by repeated trials that the European officers of Government are not the fit persons to administer relief to the people of this country in times of distress. The very fact that they look upon themselves as conquerors and upon the people of this country as conquered stands in the way of their feeling sympathy with the latter. To them the life of an Indian is of no value. It is no wonder therefore that they always underrate the gravity of famine and distress and thereby fail to bring timely relief to the distressed.

In view of this and of the frequency of famine, the people of the country should be entrusted with the duty of relieving the distressed in times of scarcity. A famine fund should be set apart, and the District Boards and Municipalities should be entrusted with its administration. The proceeds of the license-tax should form the nucleus of this fund. The money derived from this tax in any district should be placed in the hands of the District Board of that district in order to be spent in times of scarcity. If this money is not wanted in any district, it may be transferred to any other district where it is wanted. For the purpose of swelling the fund, Government should lend money out of it at interest to the municipalities.

If these proposals are adopted, the work of relieving the distressed will be done in future much more economically and efficiently than at present. Economically, because a native agency will be cheaper than a European agency, and efficiently because the natives must be expected to know their own wants better than Europeans.

50. Baboo Ambika Charan Das Kar, a resident of Gopalpur, Muthurapur in the 24-Pergunnahs district, and Secretary of the Gopalpur Hari Sabha, writes in the *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika*, of the

Distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
June 18th, 1889.

13th June, to say that the money collected by the Sabha is too small to meet the requirements of the situation in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, and that he is therefore distributing charity only amongst those who are at the point of death. The other day he visited Mathurapur, Ramnagar, Gopalpur, Tajpur, Raghunathpur, Malharhat, Ghatesvara, Dhoparhat, Sikirhat, Dighirpar, Radhanagar, Abdalpasa, Durgapur, Ramesvarapur, Nilamvarapur and 20 other villages, and the sights he has seen there are of a heart-rending nature. No human being who sees such sights can help shedding tears. That heart-rending striking of the breast with the hand, those wailings for food and those cries of the children are still resounding in the ears of the correspondent. His eyes are in tears as he is writing. His only wish is that he may take all large hearted men to these scenes of misery, that they may realise for themselves what this distress really is. He says he appeals to them for help with folded hands.

51. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 14th June, refers to the distress which is said to be prevailing in different parts of Bengal, and makes the following observations:—

Distress in Bengal.

PRAJA BANDHU,
June 14th, 1889.

"The English are great in power. Even the hard heart of Yama (Pluto of Greek mythology) was softened by the tears of Savitri, and he returned to her (Savitri) the life-breath of (her husband) Satyavan. But even that amount of pity is not to be found in the hearts of Englishmen. The English rule in Bengal is more terrible than even the rule of Yama. The *yantraná* (pain) which Yama gives [*i.e.*, the pangs of death] is felt only once (*lit.* for one day) and terminates with death; but the terrible oppression which is committed by Englishmen lasts for life. Tears succeeded with Yama, but not even tears avail with Englishmen. They will not hear you say that you have nothing to give, and though rulers, they do not feel any anxiety on account of their subjects. They have learnt how to oppress their subjects, and how to suck their substance (*lit.* them) terribly. When the subjects cry for food, and when, for her belly's sake, the mother runs away forsaking her child, and when, for the same reason, the wife is compelled to forsake her husband and the husband his wife, and when breaking her tie of affection for her son, the mother proceeds to purchase her livelihood by selling for trifling money the darling born of her own womb—even at such times the English administration is carried on in the same unrelenting manner. Even at such times the English collect taxes by oppressing the people, and pay no heed to their plea of poverty. They even seize them by the neck and turn them out, and do not show them the least kindness. Kindness does not dwell in the hearts of Englishmen. Even that amount of kindness which is in the heart of Yama is not to be found in the hearts of Englishmen. It was for this reason that we said that the English rule is even more terrible than the rule of Yama."

Now-a-days distress is being reported from almost all parts of Bengal. But the distress in the 24-Pergunnahs is of the most heart-rending character. The sufferings of the people there were intensified by oppression in connection with the collection of Government revenue. At last they could bear their misery no longer, and came to the Magistrate's cutchery to entreat that officer to stop the collection of revenue for some time. But the Magistrate, who was an Englishman, possessed a heart of steel, and instead of feeling sympathy with the starving people, he got angry with them and drove them out of the compound of his cutcherry. This is how the English administer the country. The sight of other's misery softens the heart of

everybody except an Englishman. When Nana Sahib dyed Cawnpore with English blood, the people of this country shed tears of grief; but the Englishmen, who see more horrible things done to the Indians before their eyes, never shed tears for them. The people of this country have been under the English rule for upwards of a hundred years, but who shall say that the English have wept for them even for one day? The heartless Englishman has ever been a stranger to sympathy and kindness: perhaps he never learnt to weep. And it is for this reason that, instead of showing kindness to the people in their distress he oppresses them.

Whatever the cause, it is a fact that Englishmen do not care to feel for their subjects. But inasmuch as the ruler has nothing which does not come from his subjects, and inasmuch as the happiness of the ruler is based upon the happiness of his subjects, is it not the duty of the ruler to do all that he can to protect his subjects? People are dying of starvation, and is it not the ruler's duty to save them? Does it not appear to be reasonable to stop the collection of revenue at least for some time in this season of distress? We request the English rulers to think a little on this subject. A kingdom cannot be kept simply by crying, "give" "give." How can the ruler gain the sympathy of his subjects if he does not feel for them? Let the English try to put down the distress in the country, and let them spend (for the purpose) a portion, however small, of the revenue which they have been hitherto collecting for the protection of the people. It is our desire that the English should forego, in how small a measure it may be, their thirst for money.

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1839.

52. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 15th June, writing from Satghara, in Mathurapore, in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, says that innumerable people will die of starvation. There are both scarcity of food and scarcity of water at Satghara. There are only three comparatively good tanks in the village. Some people have not had rice for two days. Some have been living for some time on herbs, arum roots, stumps of plantain trees. Many are having only one meal a day. Relief arrangements for labourers should be made at once. Many middle-class men are suffering from scarcity.

DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
June 16th, 1839.

53. The *Dainik-o-Samachar Chandriká*, of the 16th June, has the following on the distress in Orissa:—

Famine in Orissa.
The fire of famine, which had been smouldering in Orissa for some time, is about to blaze forth. Disease is spreading in the country with the advent of famine. Cholera has already made its appearance, and as the celebration of the car festival is drawing near, it is feared that the disease may assume a virulent form. This paper predicted long ago that there would be distress in Orissa, and the distress *has come*. But the officers of Government, who are always unwilling to admit the sufferings of the people, lest such admission should cost Government money, always made light of the affair. This, and similar other instances, have taught the writer the lesson that no reliance ought to be placed in the reports which are submitted by the officers of Government on famine and distress. Sir Steuart Bayley ought to visit Orissa soon. According to an Anglo-Indian, writing from Darjeeling, Sir Steuart will do so soon. It is hoped that the news will prove correct. Sir Steuart ought not to wait till 5th July; he should leave Darjeeling at once, and come to Calcutta, and visit the Diamond Harbour sub-division, and thence go to Orissa direct. This is not the time to indulge in luxurious repose. The time is a critical one.

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 16th, 1839.

54. The *Dacca Prákásh*, of the 16th June, says that it is raining incessantly in the district of Dacca since the last days of the month of Jaishtha. Before the rain agricultural operations were at a standstill, and now the seeds and the sprouts are rotting in consequence of

The prospects of the crops in the district of Dacca.

excessive rainfall. There is scarcity already in the district, and there is little hope of a better future.

55. A correspondent of the same paper says that excessive rainfall is doing much harm to the jute and *aus* crops in the sub-division of Tangail. Distress has

Crops in the Tangail sub-division.

already appeared in the sub-division, and there will be famine there if the *aus* crop fails.

56. The same paper says that distress is now visible in almost every part of India, though prominence has been

Distress in India.

given only to the distress which is prevailing in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, in the Punjab, and in some parts of Behar. In most of the towns in Bengal rice is selling at 11 or 12 seers per rupee, and in some places at 8 or 9 seers per rupee, and there are many places where the people are dying of starvation, though the public have no means of informing themselves about them.

Famine will be impossible in India, if the corn produced in the country remains in it. Even in years of bad harvests, the corn grown in the country is sufficient for the maintenance of its people; and distress occurs simply because more and more grain is sent out of the country year after year.

Last year more than one crore maunds of rice were exported. If that rice had remained in the country, no one would have heard of distress, famine, or untimely death this year.

The population of India is 26 crores. Of this, not more than five crores are rice-eaters; and though the rest eat rice for two or three months in the year, their principal food is not rice. Of the five crores of rice-eaters, about one crore are infants below the age of five who need not be taken into consideration. The remaining four crores comprise old men, boys, widows, &c., eating one meal in the day, and peasants eating *china*, *kaon*, barley, and other kinds of corn. If the average quantity of rice required by every one of these four crores of men be ten seers per month, or three maunds a year, then the quantity of rice exported last year—namely, one crore maunds—ought to be sufficient to feed all the rice-eating people of India for one month.

And supposing the largest number of those who suffer distress in a particular famine in this country to be one-fourth of the entire rice-eating population of India, the quantity of rice exported last year ought to be sufficient to supply them with food for four months; and the same view may be shown to hold good in regard to other food-grains eaten by the people of India. Thus it is clear that there can be no famine in the country if the exportation of grain is put a stop to. It therefore behoves Government, which exists simply for the good of its subjects, to put a stop to the exportation of corn from the country, and thereby save the people for ever from distress and famine.

57. The *Som Prakash*, of the 17th June, says that it is improper for the Government of Bengal to assume an attitude of indifference at a time when distress

Distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division.

in a severe form has appeared in the Diamond Harbour sub-division, and the people there are suffering intensely and are dying of starvation. It is true that on receiving the news of the distress Sir Stuart Bayley sent Mr. Bolton to the sub-division to ascertain the exact nature of the distress prevailing there. But has it been proper for His Honour himself to enjoy the pleasures of repose at Darjeeling at such a critical time as this, thinking that he has done his duty simply by sending an officer to the distressed sub-division? One cannot conceive how His Honour is enjoying rest, while the people's cries for food are assailing his ears day and night. Mr. Bolton's report on the distress in the Diamond

DACCA PRAKASH,
June 15th, 1889.

DACCA PRAKASH.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 17th, 1889.

Harbour sub-division is unsatisfactory. He has concealed the real condition of the famine-stricken people, and simply reported the existence of a little distress. But truth cannot long be concealed. The reports of distress which are coming from the sub-division are sufficient to melt not only human hearts, but even stones. In some places the people are begging from door to door to procure one meal at the end of the day, and in another place a whole family is starving all day. Was it possible for Mr. Bolton to publish these things? His information about the distress was derived from the naib of a local zemindar, a kind of enquiry which could not possibly reveal to him the real condition of the sub-division. He could have given a graphic picture of the famine in the sub-division if he had taken the trouble of visiting the huts of the famine-stricken people.

From the fact that distress is very severe even in Majilpur and other places which are inhabited by respectable and well-to-do families, one can easily conclude what the condition of things must be in the far mofussil. It is the duty of Sir Steuart Bayley to come down to Calcutta and do his best to put down the distress in the Diamond Harbour sub-division.

One way of materially relieving the distress will be to undertake just now the re-excavation of the khal from Mograhat to Suryapur; and if Government have any sense of responsibility, it will certainly order the re-excavation of the khal. But Government is doing nothing at present in the matter, except giving currency to the false rumour that the accounts of distress given in the native papers are greatly exaggerated. God will call the British Government to account for this.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 17th, 1889.

Excessive rainfall in the district of
Pubna.

58. A correspondent of the same paper says that it has been raining incessantly for one week at Chatmohar in the district of Pubna. The standing paddy, which was dried up in the drought preceding

the rainfall is about to be submerged.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
June 19th, 1889.

The Queen and the distress in
Ganjam.

59. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 19th June, says that there can be no doubt that Lord Connemara is discharging his duties as regards famine relief in Ganjam in a satisfactory manner, and that he has by so doing entitled himself to the gratitude, not of the Madras alone, but of all Indians. Every one will read with pleasure the telegram which has been sent by the Queen, the mother of the Indians, expressing her sympathy with the famine-stricken people in Ganjam. But the writer is a little grieved at her making no mention of the distress in Orissa, Behar and Diamond Harbour. Probably the Queen has not been informed of the distress in Bengal. There can be no doubt that, if the Queen comes to know of the distress in Bengal, she will direct Sir Steuart Bayley to spare no pains to remove it. Would it not be well for Sir Steuart Bayley, under these circumstances, to adopt that course from the first.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR,
June 12th, 1889.

Prince Albert Victor's projected
visit to India.

60. The *Sahachar*, of the 12th June, says that the public in this country will no doubt be glad to learn that Prince Albert Victor, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, will shortly visit India. The Indians will be thus given another opportunity of expressing their deep loyalty to the throne of England, and it is hoped that they will receive the Prince with befitting honour and loyalty.

SAMAYA,
June 14th, 1889.

Prince Albert Victor's projected
visit to India.

61. The *Samaya*, of the 14th June, is glad to learn that Prince Albert Victor, eldest son of the Prince of Wales, will shortly visit India.

BANGABASI,
June 15th, 1889.

62. The *Bangabási*, of the 15th June, says that black fever first made its appearance in the Garo Hills, and is thence spreading eastwards. The disease has broken

The black fever in Assam.

out in some parts of Kamrup, Barapeta and Mangaldai. There are many reserved *sál* forests in the Garo Hills, Goalpara and Kamrup. In the rainy season the rotten leaves of these trees give out poisonous gases. Formerly the villagers used to burn these jungles and leaves, but this has been prohibited in the Forest Rules. It is hoped that Mr. Fitzpatrick will, before leaving Assam, appoint a Commission to enquire into the causes of black fever.

63. The *Navavibhakar Sádharaní*, of the 17th June, says that both the Hindu and the Mussulman community of Hooghly are dissatisfied with Baboo Nidhu Lal Haldar, Assistant Surgeon of the Hooghly

The Assistant Surgeon of the
Hooghly Imambara Hospital.

Imambara Hospital for his ordering the dead body of a Mussulman to be burnt. It is said that the Hindus have taken the opinion of the Bhatpara pundits on the subject, and submitted a petition to the Lieutenant-Governor protesting against this action of the Baboo. The Baboo is unpopular not only for this, but also for many other acts. Government should soon transfer him.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
June 17th, 1889.

64. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 17th June, says that nothing could be more gratifying to India than the news of Prince Albert Victor's intended visit to this country. But the people should take care

Prince Albert Victor's intended visit
to India.

not to spend money uselessly on the reception of the prince in this their time of distress. Their duty will be done if they only show proper respect to the prince.

SOM PRAKASH,
June 17th, 1889.

ASSAM PAPERS.

65. The *Silchar*, of the 3rd June, says that Mr. Fullerton, District Superintendent of Police, has set aside the order of the Deputy Commissioner that commissariat elephants should be carried only

Mr. Fullerton, District Superintendent of Police, Silchar.

through a particular road in an out-of-the-way part of the town of Silchar, and has ordered such elephants to be taken through all roads and at all times. This order of the Police Superintendent, superseding the order of his master, is causing great inconvenience to the public.

66. The same paper says that Mr. Kennedy, Deputy Commissioner of Assam, had many good traits in his character; but he, nevertheless, displayed partiality in deciding two cases shortly before he left

Two cases decided by Mr. Kennedy,
Deputy Commissioner of Assam.

for Sylhet. The cases are (1) of one Gopimohan Raha, a school-boy, who was fined Rs. 10, and (2) of Baboo Akshaya Kumar Chowdhury of the Palichhara tea-garden. The Baboo was assaulted and forcibly detained by the manager of the garden, and though there was evidence to prove his case, still Mr. Kennedy dismissed it. The Chief Commissioner of Assam is asked to examine the papers connected with these two cases.

SILCHAR.

67. The same paper says that, while Lord Reay of Bombay has made an annual saving of Rs. 3,38,807 by reducing the salaries of highly-paid officers, retrenchment is being effected in Bengal by taking away the little morsels of food from the mouths of the poor.

SILCHAR.

68. The *Paridarshak*, of the 10th June, says that it had to complain of scarcity in that part of the country for some years before this, and had hoped that there would be no scarcity this year, but that hope has been disappointed.

PARIDARSHAK,
June 10th, 1889.

The crops in Sylhet.

The cultivators have just done sowing, and the fields are overflowed. There is no hope for the crops this year.

PARIDARSHAK,
June 10th, 1889.

69. The same paper notices the letter of a correspondent, who says that those who recommend the removal of the dispensary and post-office at Baniachung from Burrabazar are going to injure the place. The correspondent says that, though Burrabazar is not situated in the centre of Baniachung, almost all people go there in the evening on business. The correspondent says that the place to which the dispensary and the post-office are going to be removed is the western part of Baniachung, and that there are few human habitations on the west of it. The correspondent's contention is worthy of consideration.

The dispensary and post-office at Baniachung.

PARIDARSHAK.

70. The same paper says that a *yugi* named Bulunath, who resides sometimes at Dharmanagar and sometimes at Kasinagar, has sold his wife for Rs. 15 to a certain Mussulman of Dakshinbhag. On coming to know of this, Bulu's wife, who does not like to be sold, is going about from one place to another hiding herself, and some Mussulmans are on her track. The person who has given this information to the writer says that no one ventures to give shelter to that helpless woman from a fear of a certain Mussulman zemindar. It is hoped that the Jaldhupe police will carefully enquire into the matter.

The sale of a wife by her husband.

PARIDARSHAK.

71. The same paper says that the Police Superintendent of Sylhet, Mr. Ritchie, has a horse which shies. The case against Babu Navakrishna Raya Dastidar, which had its origin in this habit of Mr. Ritchie's horse, has been already noticed (see paragraph 74 of the Weekly Report on Native Papers for week ending the 8th June 1889). Mr. Ritchie sends to the thana those who cough near his horse, or fire crackers in the streets when he is driving. All such men are confined in the thana for three or four hours and then let off with a warning. Recently an aged wood-cutter with a load of wood on his head fell in Mr. Ritchie's way while he was driving along the Chouhata road. At the sight of the wood-cutter, Mr. Ritchie's horse shied, and Mr. Ritchie struck the man with the cane he held in his hand and then thundered out to him not to do so again. The wood-cutter went away crying.

Mr. Ritchie, Police Superintendent of Sylhet, and his horse.

PARIDARSHAK.

72. The same paper says that fever prevails in Sylhet. In some places all the members of a family have fallen ill, and can therefore procure no medical aid. It is hoped that the Local Board and the Municipality will employ a doctor, at least temporarily, for the treatment of the people.

Fever in Sylhet.

PARIDARSHAK.

73. A correspondent of the same paper says that the members of the Kamalganj Local Board unanimously voted for the establishment of the proposed charitable dispensary at Moonshi Bazar, but the Chairman of the Board, that is, the Magistrate, is opposed to this arrangement. It is not easy to understand why he is opposed; but it is said that two Sahebs of a tea-garden desire that the dispensary should be established at Kamalganj. The Magistrate had a hot debate with the members of the Local Board on the subject, and when he saw that not one member would vote with him, he entrusted the Sub-divisional Officer, that is himself, with the charge of selecting a site for the dispensary. Now the question is whether he had the right to do what he has done—whether the Chairman of a Local Board, being thwarted in any proposal in his capacity of Chairman, can have recourse to his Magisterial capacity for carrying his point. If a Chairman, that is to say, if a

The Magistrate-Chairman of the Kamalganj Local Board.

Magistrate has the power to act against the views of all the members, what power then remains to the latter? If the Magistrate has the power of carrying out according to his own judgment an arrangement which has been sanctioned by the Chief Commissioner, where is the necessity of inviting so many respectable men to attend the meetings of the Board for the purpose of determining how to effect that arrangement? Is not the foundation of self-government weakened by such proceedings? The members of the Local Board should get the powers of the Magistrate, as well as their own powers, clearly defined by the Chief Commissioner.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 22nd June 1889.

